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"(b) The amount advanced to Messrs. Radio Electricals, Ltd., is Rs. 2 lakhs. No advance is involved in the case of Messrs. K. V. Ratnam and Bros.

"(c) A sum of Rs. 1 lakh was advanced on 29th December 1945 and another sum of Rs. 1 lakh on 24th January 1946 to Messrs. The Radio Electrical, Ltd.

"(d) As Government have taken shares in the case of Messrs. The Radio Electrical, Ltd., the question of recovery does not arise. No recovery is involved in the case of Messrs. K. V. Ratnam and Bros.

"(e) A statement[a] containing the information is placed on the table of the House."

Rate of interest charged by a Primary Society in Rayalaseema.

* 90 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what the rate of interest at which the ultimate borrower is charged by a primary society in Rayalaseema is and what the rate at which the district banks at Rayalaseema are borrowing from the Provincial Co-operative Bank is;

(b) whether it is a fact that the private money-lender's rate of interest is much below the Co-operative Societies' rate of interest in Rayalaseema;

(c) what steps the Government propose to take in order to reduce the lending rate to the ultimate borrower;

(d) what steps the Government propose to take to see that the concessions recommended by the committee are shown to the borrowing ryots; and

(e) what orders the Government have passed on the recommendations of the committee to minimize the overhead expenditure of societies doing small business?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—"(a) to (e) The answer[b] is printed and placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"With reference to answer to clause (b) of the question, the Government say that no information is readily available with regard to the private money-lender's rate of interest and they quote the observations of the Rayalaseema Co-operatie Enquiry Committee. Are the Government aware that those observations of the Committee are based on the evidence collected on the spot? If they say, they should feel satisfied with the evidence collected by the Committee. In view of the fact that the rate of interest in the district banks is higher than that charged by the private money-lenders, what are the steps the Government are going to take in order to reduce the rate of the interest charged by the banks?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 274–276 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix V on page 277–280 infra.

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THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" The Government have taken into consideration the complete report and its recommendations. Some of these recommendations have been placed on the table and have been carried out. Some other recommendations are under consideration. As far as this particular item is concerned regarding the reduction of the rate of interest, the Government are trying to reduce the rate of interest."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know when the Government hope to come to decisions on the other recommendations of the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" As early as possible."

Appointment of special officers to promote basic education.

* 91 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether special officers have been appointed to promote basic education;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what their status and emoluments are;

(*c*) whether these posts have been filled up;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what the qualifications of the present incumbents are;

(*e*) whether any service rules governing these posts have been framed; and if so, what those rules are; and

(*f*) what exactly the duties of these Basic Education Officers are and their relation to the Educational Officers in the districts?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

" (*a*) Yes. There are two Basic Education Officers, one at headquarters (in Madras) and another for Andhra Desa.

" (*b*) The post of Basic Education Officer at headquarters is a gazetted one on a pay of Rs. 230 a month. The Basic Education Officer for Andhra area is a non-gazetted officer on a pay of Rs. 165 in the scale of Rs. 165—5—205—10—245.

" (*c*) Yes.

" (*d*) The Basic Education Officer at headquarters is a graduate and an L.T. He was a senior assistant in a board school before he was arrested in the freedom movement. He has been interested in basic education for about ten years and has had training in Sevagram.

" The Basic Education Officer for Andhra Desa is an M.A. and has been interested in basic education for many years and has had training in Sevagram.

" (*e*) The posts are temporary and are to be governed by *ad hoc* rules. The question of framing the rules is under consideration.